



# PRASEG NEWS



The weekly newsletter from the *associate*  
Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group



This newsletter is produced by PRASEG for distribution to members once a week. PRASEG seeks to provide readers with news and parliamentary information related to renewable and sustainable energy issues.

PRASEG is a cross-party parliamentary group with 126 parliamentary and 250 industry members. If you would like to become a member, please contact Rose Dickinson, the PRASEG Coordinator, at [info@praseg.org.uk](mailto:info@praseg.org.uk). For further information on the group, visit the PRASEG website at [www.praseg.org.uk](http://www.praseg.org.uk).

## 11<sup>th</sup> February 2011: This Week's Headlines...

### Huhne takes action on Solar farm threat

[DECC](#) - [Telegraph](#) - [Guardian](#)

### Charles Hendry sets out new approach to onshore wind

[DECC](#) - [Click Green](#) - [Energy Efficiency News](#)

### Ofgem fines E.ON and Scottish & Southern £1m for connection delays

[Telegraph](#)

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# Upcoming PRASEG Events

## PRASEG and FPEEG Inquiry

The Associate Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group, and the All-Party Parliamentary Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency Group are holding an inquiry to investigate social justice in the low carbon economy.

Click [here](#) for the terms of reference.

**Deadline for written submissions: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

**Oral evidence sessions:**

31st January 2011, Portcullis House; 8th February 2011, Portcullis House; 16th February 2011, Portcullis House

For further information contact Rose Dickinson, PRASEG ([info@praseg.org.uk](mailto:info@praseg.org.uk)) or Piya Malik, FPEEG ([Malikp@parliament.uk](mailto:Malikp@parliament.uk))

## PRASEG Seminar Planning reform: implications for renewables

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011

**Time:** 16:00 - 18:00

**Location:** Wilson Room, Portcullis House

**Speakers:** Helen Phillips, CEO, Natural England; Bob Neill MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government; Charles Anglin, Renewable UK; Hector Pearson, Land and Development Stakeholder & Policy Manager, National Grid

**Chair:** Caroline Lucas MP



## PRASEG Annual Conference 2011 Delivering Low Carbon Energy – Electricity Market Reform and Beyond



**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011

**Time:** 9:00 - 17:00

**Location:** One Great George Street

**Confirmed Speakers:** Chris Huhne MP, Secretary of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change; Tim Yeo MP, Chair, Energy and Climate Change Select Committee; Meg Hillier MP, Shadow Secretary of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change; Caroline Lucas MP, Leader, Green Party. *Other speakers TBC.*

## 2. RECENT NEWS ARTICLES AND PRESS RELEASES



## **Headline news**

### **Huhne takes action on Solar farm threat - Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Energy Secretary Chris Huhne has today launched a comprehensive review of the Feed in Tariffs (FITs) scheme following growing evidence that large scale solar farms could soak up money intended to help homes, communities and small businesses generate their own electricity, [DECC](#) - [Telegraph](#) - [Guardian](#)

### **Charles Hendry sets out new approach to onshore wind - Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Ahead of a Westminster Hall debate on onshore wind later today, Energy Minister Charles Hendry sets out his vision for a new approach to engaging with potential host communities, [DECC](#) - [Click Green](#) - [Energy Efficiency News](#)

### **Ofgem fines E.ON and Scottish & Southern £1m for connection delays - Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Network companies owned by Scottish & Southern and E.ON have been fined almost £1m for failing to connect wind farms and homes to the electricity grid quickly enough, [Telegraph](#)

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## **Other news**

### **Humber Gateway offshore wind farm given go-ahead - Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

The Yorkshire and Humber region could benefit from jobs and investment as E.on was granted permission to construct a 230MW wind farm off the coast of Humberside, [DECC](#)

### **Protesters rally to save quangos - Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

The Unite union will hold a rally in Westminster today calling on the government to stop the "bonfire of the quangos", [Politics](#)

### **Vestas 2011 Sales Forecast Beats Analyst Estimates as Company Gains Share - Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Vestas Wind Systems A/S, the world's largest wind-turbine maker, forecast sales will increase to a record this year after it gained market share in 2010, [Bloomberg](#)

### **Palm oil deal aims to save forests and carbon - Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

A major palm oil producer is joining forces with environmental campaigners in a bid to ramp up forest protection, [BBC](#)

### **EU faces prospect of 'black swan' shutdown of Suez Canal - Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

The Egyptian crisis yesterday entered a new and potentially critical phase as thousands of Suez Canal service workers began an indefinite strike two weeks after protests against the Mubarak regime began, [EurActiv](#)

### **Turning rubbish into energy - Mayor kicks off work on UK's biggest low carbon waste plant - Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

The Mayor of London today officially kicked off work on the future £80 million plant that will transform household rubbish into clean energy to power up to 15,000 local homes, [GLA](#)

### **Green thinktank warns against using tax cuts to stabilise fuel prices - Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Pleas from industry to cut fuel duty will result in rises to other taxes or further spending cuts, Green Alliance says, [Guardian](#)

### **WikiLeaks cables: Saudi Arabia cannot pump enough oil to keep a lid on prices - Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February**



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**2011**

US diplomat convinced by Saudi expert that reserves of world's biggest oil exporter have been overstated by nearly 40%, [Guardian](#)

**Feed-in tariff review sparks solar industry outcry - Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

"This is the very worst kind of knee-jerk policy response", [BusinessGreen](#)

**The UK must own up to the full scale of its emissions problem - Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Last week the Guardian reported that the UK's carbon emissions have dropped. In fact they've gone up. New material released under the Freedom of Information Act reveals that the government knows this, but is actively deciding to do nothing, [Guardian](#)

**Engineers urge government to act now to 'climate-proof' UK infrastructure - Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Report sets out how transport, water, power and communications systems can be made more resilient to effects of climate change, [Guardian](#)

**Energy summit grapples with fossil fuel habit - Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

EU leaders agreed to merge and strengthen energy networks at their first ever energy summit on 4 February, giving a boost to the renewable energy industry and helping to curb Europe's growing reliance on fossil fuels, [EurActiv](#)

**Grave concerns as cremation heating plan is approved - Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Work on project to capture waste heat from crematorium to warm Redditch swimming pool will start this summer, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Carbon Floor Won't Drive U.K. Energy Investment, Analysts Say - Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Adopting a minimum price for carbon dioxide will do little to encourage investment in the U.K. power sector and risks souring relations with continental Europe, according to Citigroup Inc. and Virgin Green Fund analysts, [Bloomberg](#)

**Rejected Midlands wind farm offers cautionary tale - Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

As James Murray discovers, community tensions, accusations of bias and a rejected wind farm could all provide a taste of things to come for the government's Localism Bill, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Your green economy needs you - Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Writing exclusively for BusinessGreen, Climate Minister Greg Barker predicts an apprenticeship revival will create the 'low carbon army' the UK needs, [BusinessGreen](#)

**Blow to companies over solar power subsidies - Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Solar companies have warned of "massive uncertainty" hanging over the market, after the Government said it would review subsidies for renewable electricity, [Telegraph](#)

**Solar energy firms threaten legal action over feed-in tariffs - Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Companies seek legal advice after ministers announce fast-track review to prevent 'solar farms' from claiming subsidies, [Guardian](#)

**German Utilities May Close Old Nuclear Plants, Handelsblatt Says - Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

German utilities are looking at closing older nuclear power plants, as tighter security standards may make them unprofitable, Handelsblatt reported today, without saying where it got the information, [Bloomberg](#)

**Mox proposal would pay nuclear firms to use recycled plutonium - Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

• French group Areva wants to build a Mox plant at Sellafield



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- Greenpeace fears 'yet another subsidy for new nuclear', [Guardian](#)

## **Ofgem consults on strengthening consumer protection for smart meters - Information Note, - Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Ofgem has today published a consultation proposing to strengthen protection for those consumers who receive a smart meter ahead of the national roll out, [Ofgem](#)

## **Decc surpasses 10:10 pledge to cut emissions by 10% in 2010 - Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Department cut its carbon footprint by 20% compared with 2009 by using laptops, real-time energy displays and smarter heating, [Guardian](#)

## **Anaerobic digestion industry welcomes move to boost feed-in tariff support - Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Developers are urging the government to offer more attractive incentives for small-scale anaerobic digestion (AD) plants that match the level of support offered to other renewable energy technologies such as wind and solar, after DECC today announced a comprehensive review of its feed-in tariff (FIT) incentive scheme, [BusinessGreen](#)

## **Wind Turbine Prices Fall Below 1 Million Euros Per Megawatt, BNEF Says - Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Wind turbine prices last year fell below 1 million euros (\$1.4 million) a megawatt for the first time since 2005, Bloomberg New Energy Finance said, [Bloomberg](#)

## **Honda launches new combined heat and power home system - Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Japanese car maker Honda has turned its expertise in efficient engine technology to jointly develop a new micro-combined heat and power system (mCHP) for use in the home, [GreenCar](#)

## **Scots energy firm fined £500,000 - Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Scottish and Southern Energy's power distribution arm has been penalised for failing to meet a three month-deadline for connecting customers., [BBC](#)

## **'Green scheme' will harness energy from crematorium to heat swimming pool - Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Heat from a crematorium will be used to warm a leisure centre and swimming pool in Worcestershire in a controversial green scheme expected to be approved tonight, [Independent](#)

## **Wind Turbine Prices Fall Below 1 Million Euros Per Megawatt, BNEF Says - Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Wind turbine prices last year fell below 1 million euros (\$1.4 million) a megawatt for the first time since 2005, Bloomberg New Energy Finance said, [Bloomberg](#)

## **Guidance on emission reduction for public sector - Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Guidance has been published today which encourages public bodies to set their own emissions targets and make tackling climate change a priority, as part of their responsibilities under the Climate Change Act, [Scotland](#)

## **EU leaders back supergrid master plan - Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

EU leaders closed the bloc's first energy summit on Friday with an agreement to accelerate plans for a Europe-wide supergrid that should provide a major boost to the continent's renewable and nuclear energy industries, [BusinessGreen](#)

## **National Skills Academy for Environmental Technologies gets go-ahead - Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

A new nationwide network of accredited training provision for low carbon and renewable skills has been given the go-ahead by Government, [SummitSkills](#)



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## 3. RECENT REPORTS AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

### *Parliamentary Report - Commons*

#### Select Committees

The **Energy and Climate Change Committee** held an evidence session on its inquiry into electricity market reform on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011. Riverstone, Citigroup Global Markets, Virgin green Fund, Climate Change Capital; RSPB, Greenpeace, WWF, and Friends of the Earth presented evidence. Click [here](#) to watch the session.

The **Energy and Climate Change Committee** held an evidence session on its inquiry into shale gas reform on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011. Nigel Smith, British Geological Survey, and Professor Richard Selley, Imperial College London; WWF, and Tyndall Manchester presented evidence. Click [here](#) to watch the session.

#### Parliamentary Questions

The **written answers** to MPs' questions published this week by DECC are summarised below.

**Monday:** (Browse the day's printed answer [here](#))

Topics included: the Carbon Reduction Commitment ([here](#)); private electricity and gas networks ([here](#)); smart meters ([here](#)); heating oil prices ([here](#)); Greenhouse Gas Emissions ([here](#)); nuclear new build costs ([here](#)); used cooking oil and renewable energy ([here](#)); uptake of FITs ([here](#)); supply chain impact from Sheffield Forgemasters ([here](#))

Treasury answered a question on the Carbon Reduction Commitment ([here](#)); excise duty for biofuels ([here](#)); and excise duty for fuels ([here](#)).

**Tuesday:** (Browse the day's printed answers [here](#))

Topics included: global temperatures ([here](#)); electricity generation infrastructure ([here](#)); Nordic Baltic Summit ([here](#)); smart meters ([here](#)); LPG Prices ([here](#)); shale gas ([here](#)); construction, power stations ([here](#)); planning permission, solar power ([here](#)); renewable energy targets ([here](#)); marine energy parks ([here](#)); wind power commercial viability ([here](#)); wind power north sea ([here](#)); domestic oil prices ([here](#));

**Wednesday:** (Browse the day's printed answers [here](#))

Topics included: underground cables ([here](#)); nuclear power subsidy ([here](#)); Feed-in Tariffs ([here](#)); the Third Internal Energy Package ([here](#)); backup for wind power ([here](#));

**Thursday:** (Browse the day's printed answers [here](#))

Topics included: FIT review - progress ([here](#)); investment in low carbon technologies ([here](#)); EU Supergrid ([here](#)); fuel poverty and energy prices ([here](#)); households in fuel poverty ([here](#)); fuel poverty, mains gas ([here](#)); finance - nuclear power ([here](#)); solar parks - brownfield sites ([here](#)); FIT review - solar ([here](#)); planning permission, wind power ([here](#));

DECC oral questions: (Browse [here](#))

Topics included: oil prices ([here](#)); oil prices, Egypt ([here](#)); onshore and offshore wind generating capacity



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([here](#)); LPG ([here](#)); investment - low carbon technologies ([here](#)); tariff information - the Energy Bill ([here](#)); the FIT review ([here](#)); net wind generation in the final quarter of 2010 ([here](#)); tariff pricing policies ([here](#)); energy efficiency private rented rural housing ([here](#)); Anaerobic Digestion ([here](#));

## Written Statements:

The Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change made a statement on FITs and plutonium stocks. Read the statements [here](#).

## Westminster Hall Debates:

Onshore wind - Andrea Leadsom: read the debate [here](#).

## Parliamentary Report - Lords

The House of Lords' contributions to renewable and sustainable energy debates this week include:

- Lord Dykes asked a question non nuclear power savings ([here](#));
- Baroness Jolly asked a question on heating oil prices ([here](#));
- Lord Donoughue asked a question on backup for wind ([here](#));
- Lord Stoddart of Swindon asked a question on onshore wind ([here](#));

The Energy Bill is currently in Grand Committee ([here](#));

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## 4. EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

### Heat pump seminar

**Event:** Take advantage of the heat pump market

**Date:** 28th April 2011: Basingstoke

**Further details:** [click here](#)

### BRE Events:

**Event:** Planning for solar farms: making money by cultivating a greener world

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> February,

**Location:** BRE, Watford

**Further information:** One day conference providing a clear understanding of the planning requirements and processes, and financial benefits of installing large-scale PV.

Visit [www.bre.co.uk/solarfarms](http://www.bre.co.uk/solarfarms) for more information

### Committee on Climate Change Event:

**Event:** Climate Change Briefing ahead of Fourth Carbon Budget Debate

**Date:** Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011, 11 - 1pm

**Location:** Attlee Suite, Portcullis House

**Further information:** The Committee published their fourth Carbon Budget report covering the period 2023 - 2027 in December 2010. This report sets the Committee's advice on the fourth carbon budget, as required under Section 4 of the Climate Change Act; Parliament is due to debate the fourth carbon budget in Spring 2011 and the Government will propose draft legislation in Summer 2011. Come to this briefing to learn more about the fourth carbon budget recommendations and other information on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the UK.



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[events@theccc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:events@theccc.gsi.gov.uk)

## **Solarwatt reception:**

**Event:** Launch of Solarwatt in the UK

**Date:** Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011, 16:00 - 18:00

**Location:** Strangers Dining Room, House of Commons

**Further information:** Solarwatt AG has been producing high quality solar PV modules for 18 years. With 480 employees and a turnover of 300 million euros, it is Germany's second-largest solar PV manufacturer. To secure its continued growth in the expanding worldwide market for photovoltaic equipment, Solarwatt has selected the United Kingdom as its first overseas market.

We would be delighted if you could attend the seminar - we are sure you will find it useful and informative.

We look forward to seeing you!

RSVP - [jh@chelgate.com](mailto:jh@chelgate.com)

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